

THE BEE

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THE DIGNITY OF LABOR

REGISTER VERNON TALKS ON LABOR. ADVISES COLORED AMERICANS TO JOIN LABOR ORGANIZATIONS.

Kansas, August 9.

At the meeting of the Tri-State Labor Meeting, which has been in session from August 4, and continues until the 10th, Register W. T. Vernon, Senator Foraker, Dr. Booker T. Washington and others spoke. Dr. Vernon, representing the Administration, spoke as follows:

Fellow Citizens:—I feel myself more than honored in coming to you as the representative of that friend of labor, President Theodore Roosevelt, to address you, my countrymen, and if possible to contribute in some measure to the splendid efforts made by the management of your exposition.

I address myself today not alone to the members of my race on purely racial questions, but the presence of these labor organizations impels me to speak in some measure concerning labor and that for which labor stands.

Time was in the history of the world when the gentleman was said to be the man who did not work—when labor was associated with indignity; and society, misguided, had no word of praise for the honest laboring man. Be it said to the credit of a sane age that the dignity of labor is acknowledged and that men have learned to view with pity and more nearly with contempt that one who lives upon the efforts of others. From a material standpoint the ability to labor is God's great gift to man. That Providence which decreed that man in the sweat of his face should earn his bread thereby blessed him; for, from this labor of the individual have strength of body, strength of mind, and the illumined soul which illdeness knoweth not. Man's struggles from the Stone Age until now—his discovery in the arts and sciences, his making books, his inventions, his overcoming nature—are all the result of labor. His annihilation of space, his utilization of time, his giving to himself and family the comforts of home, and true happiness, are the rewards of noble effort. Mighty cities, marts of trade, harbors—all the accumulation of civilization and an international oneness of purpose which make this hour the admiration of intelligent humanity are the sequence of the command, "In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread."

The Negro as a laborer has done his part in this task of world improvement. He was working in that earlier day when civilization had its birthplace with those who built the Pyramids and made the Sphinx to keep silent vigil on the banks of the Nile. The efforts of his brain and brawn thread the world's great achievements, and have seen their fruition in his part in the development of American civilization. And today that man of the race does most for the race who when he teaches his children to labor and prepares them to labor intelligently.

Labor is not toil. Toil is the grinding, servile task, the portion of slaves, and can not be where men are taught to think. Labor implies intelligent effort. The laboring man thinks and works rather than is worked.

The great mass of our countrymen will always be those who work with their hands. The safety of America rests with the intelligent laboring class; for this reason the wisest statesmen, the truest patriots are those who strive for the education, the protection and intelligent co-operation of the laboring class.

There is much cause for congratulation in the growth and development of labor organizations. With the efforts for civil, political and religious liberty have grown apace the efforts for industrial betterment. The nobles and rulers in the extreme of human selfishness, ground down to the last extremity the proletariat class, but in the night of their oppression these struggled unceasingly for a better day.

In the days of Constantine there were no less than thirty-five labor organizations having for their aim the doing away with the contempt and taint of labor which came from the belief that workers had no souls.

Through the intervening years the laboring classes in secret wrought out a better condition, and the cumulative force of their struggle was seen by the civilized world in that mighty struggle, the French Revolution, which bade the world look up and hope for a better day.

The stretch from Runnymede to the Declaration of Independence had meant much in the lives of nations, but a retard had been set in motion by the introduction of slave labor in Jamestown in 1619.

Human slavery and labor unions are not compatible. It was but a question of time that the free labor of the North, seeking to elevate itself to a position of competency, independence and appreciated citizenship, would find theodium of its woes in the slave oligarchy of the South.

The conscience of the abolitionist, the Christianity of the good men of America who sought to do unto others as they would that men should do unto them, were reinforced by those who saw the utter futility of striving for lasting commercial and industrial greatness while millions of American laborers were but serfs and slaves. We are all thankful today that from these forces freedom came and that you of my race are here today not serfs, but happy, intelligent and prosperous laborers.

Unity means strength. Organization means power; and your ability to know your interest, which is but the interest of your country, is evidenced by your organizations. The trades and vocations embraced within labor organizations extend to all phases of labor. The earnings of labor are being augmented each day. As you labor effectively and intelligently can you demand and hope to receive proper remuneration from your labor. Increased remuneration with economy means the acquisition of homes, the possession of land, bank accounts, education for your children, and comfort in old age, so that rather than being a public charge you become a worthy, respected citizen, appreciated by all reasonable, fair-minded Americans.

I would not have my views impress you that labor can live alone, or that the power of capital should be underestimated or ignored. I believe that a cultivation of the most friendly relations and a mutual understanding between labor and capital will inure to the benefit of both. In this day of compromises, arbitration and reason, the wise, conservative labor leader can accomplish untold good.

All thoughtful men agree that lock-outs on the part of the management of a great concern, or strikes on the part of labor unions, can but result in real injury to both classes.

Statistics show that from 1741 to 1880 there were 1,491 strikes and lockouts, and that of these 1,089 related to wages only—that of the whole number 316 succeeded, 154 were compromised, 583 failed entirely, leaving the results of 438 which can not be ascertained.

In 1880 there were 610 strikes. In 1881 there were but 471 strikes, while in 1900 there were 1,799. The establishments concerned in these unfortunate occurrences were 117,509, and during that period 6,105,694 employees were thrown out of employment. During the same period of twenty-one years there were 1,005 lockouts, involving nearly ten thousand establishments and throwing out of employment nearly a million people. Perhaps the greatest strike of recent years was the great strike of 1902, when the United Mine Workers of America demanded an increase in wages and a decrease in time, and the payment for coal by weight wherever practicable, instead of by carload, and at the same time hoping to secure recognition of their union. After ineffectual attempts to secure these terms, 147,000 abandoned their employment and remained idle until the appointment of the Anthracite Coal Commission. The strike lasted from May 12 to October 23.

The shipment of coal decreased twenty-two and one-third millions of tons—forty per cent. of the shipment of the preceding year, or over \$46,000,000, while the mine workers lost in wages \$25,000,000, and \$1,800,000 was expended by the mine workers of the country for the relief of the miners of the anthracite region.

The railroad companies suffered a decrease in freight rates on larger sizes had it been sent to New York harbor of \$19,000,000, and on smaller sizes of \$28,000,000. This is the material part of the economic side. The story of the intimidations, violence, boycotts, and all the accompaniments of a great labor war can not be told. It was at this point that the President of the United States, Theodore Roosevelt, came forward and conferred a blessing upon the mine owner, the miner and the whole American people by a settlement of this great strike.

It is the earnest wish of all that we may never again see a recurrence of such an event, and that all the elements of our industrial life may understand each better as our hope.

I believe the Negro as a race can be much benefited by labor organizations. His membership in the same means protection to him in the matter of property, treatment and remunerative wages. It is the duty of these organizations to protect him as are all the

members protected. He should be allowed to join them, and when given a union card should in no way be discriminated against by them. Forming as he does a very considerable part of the laboring class of the country—thrown as he is into competition with other laborers, without a spirit of helpfulness, a sympathetic relationship and a definite understanding, these two classes of laborers must be at variance with each other in their demands, which means injury to the work of labor organizations.

As I have before said, I would have the Negro of this country fully appreciate the importance of labor. I believe that such expositions as this, showing the accumulation and the achievements of labor, project the ultimate lasting good which is to be the portion of this race. We should congratulate ourselves upon this unity of effort—a unity not born of a reactive but of constructive work. Let us unite in building our schools and in the education of the Negro youth; unite in the advocacy of moral themes and the making of a better life; unite in an intelligent demand for our rights as citizens; unite to make



MR. C. A. HOWZE, DISTRICT GRAND MASTER OF ENSLEY, ALA. THE GREATEST ORGANIZER AMONG ODD FELLOWS IN THE SOUTH.

ourselves worthy of these rights. We are a part of the national life of a great people. Let us more and more become an indispensable part. This accomplished, the years that unfold will see the dawning of a brighter day, when those conditions which now distress and annoy shall see the minimum, and the maximum of our experience and conditions shall be satisfactory to ourselves and friends, and the so-called vexatious race problem will be at an end.

TEACHERS HARRASSED.

The Board of Education, it is believed, will adopt strictly business methods during its existence and place all the schools upon a strictly practical, business basis. The Board's attention is called to the harassing methods of persons who have been delegated a little authority and seem to exercise that authority upon helpless and inoffensive teachers. It is a common thing for Negro supervisors to harass teachers. It is hoped that Assistant Superintendent Bruce will see to it that the supervisors under him do their duty and respect their teachers.

The next Congress will be asked to abolish the offices of supervisors. They are expensive and unnecessary. Formerly of Washington, is visiting here. She is stopping at Mrs. Babby's, 2507 Seventh street, for a time, and from there she will spend part of her time

BALTIMORE & OHIO RAILROAD.

Popular excursions to Niagara Falls, only \$10 round trip; August 2 and 16; September 6 and 20; October 6, 1907.

Excursion tickets will be sold on the above dates, good going only on Special Train leaving Washington at 7:45 a.m., arriving Niagara Falls at 11:00 p.m.

Tickets valid for return ten (10) days, including date of sale, on all regular trains, except "Black Diamond Express," of Lehigh Valley Route.

Call on ticket agents for pamphlet giving full particulars as to stop-overs, side-trips, etc.

READ THE BEE.

ODD-FELLOWS REBEL

ADDRESS TO ODD FELLOWS.

Decatur, Ala., Aug. 10, 1907. To the Members of the G. U. O. of O. F. in America, Greeting:

From time to time nations, races and individuals awaken to the fact that they are face to face with problems upon the successful or unsuccessful solution means the advancing or retarding of their civilization, progress, prosperity and happiness. Wise are the temporal powers who at such times are able to read the handwriting on the wall, and shape their legislation accordingly. We the members of D. G. L. No. 23 of Alabama, as well as the order at large, find ourselves in just such condition and facing just such problems at the present time. The material growth of the order has been retarded, public confidence has been shaken, and the peace and tranquility which the order has boasted of since its early organization,

the district with scandalous and libelous letters against the administration (the contents of some of which are too vile to be reproduced in public print) they have up at the Grand Lodge sadly in the minority.

Just a side glance at the real strength of these people will show the falsity of the claim that they are making, that they could have been elected if given a fair deal.

Now it seems that the contention they have is, that the committee on credentials consisted of fifteen men. I want to say, as a member of that committee, that when I shall have explained the real conditions that prevailed in Florence, that it was a physical impossibility for five men to perform that duty for six hundred and ten lodges creditably, with members there contending for seats and not in possession of the second degree. Proxies were put in the hands of every man who would support their gang. We had ninety of these to come from one certain source, which were secured by questionable methods. Even the so-called D. G. M. C. F. Johnson and D. G. T. furnished the committee on credentials with proxies from lodges they did not even know, nor where the lodge was located, nor the name and number. I have in my possession now proxies that were presented at that Grand Lodge by men who had not been members of the order two months. The D. G. M., Brother Howze, knowing this to be unlawful, seated these men for peace's sake, thereupon giving them the advantage of possibly ninety unlawful proxies. A show of noses on a test vote showed Howze supporters to be 462 against the other side's 112. Seeing they were hopelessly beaten, their next step was that of honest legislation, which we needed for the good of the order. After the adjournment of the Grand Lodge a howl went up all over the State, saying that the Endowment was defunct, and that there was no money to pay off claims. However, this has been proven false, for the Board has paid out over seventy-eight thousand dollars since they claimed there was no money.

But now we come to the most deplorable and most disgraceful part of the affair. Our S. C. of M., which was ushered into office at Richmond, Va., by the most questionable methods of any S. C. of M. since the order has been planted on the American Continent, have trodden every constitution, general law, decision, and precedent under foot to satisfy the whims of men of their ilk. They have called an extra session of the D. G. L. 23; which there is no law under the lids of the general law and constitution to justify.

Now, brothers, this is setting a bad precedent. If the Odd Fellows of Alabama are made to swallow this insult heaped on injury, without being allowed to vindicate themselves through all of the courts of the order, or even offering a manly protest for their vested rights as members of this fraternity and citizens of this commonwealth, then we say that no district is safe from the merciless clutch of these corruptionists. But we have not lost hope. We believe that there are members yet in the order who stand for right, justice, and equity to all men, regardless of their personal ambition, and we say to these brothers, to rise up in their manly vigor and help us put down this hydra-headed monster who would destroy the principles that render us social and happy.

Our modesty has caused us to refrain from saying much about this affair publicly. We had thought that we could save the great name and principles of this grand old order from disgrace by withholding this unholy affair from the public until the expiration of the terms of these politicians, but conditions have shaped the situation as they have (dragging the name and character of Alabama's greatest Odd Fellows in the dust). We are determined, hurt whom it may, that the truth must and shall be told, and we say further that if these are the principles by which the order must be governed, then the teaching we had since our incipency in the order is false and rotten to the core.

Just how long the members of this fraternity will supinely on their backs and allow the cardinal principles of this grand old order to be stamped under foot it remains to be seen, but we say here that if members of the S. C. of M. are allowed to overstep the limitations of their power by legislating laws to suit themselves, assuming original jurisdiction in trial cases, coming into a district grand lodge and presiding, declaring certain men as officers against protest of three-fourths of the members, made contrary to Section 10 or Article 11, D. G. L. Constitution; Section 9, Article 4, D. G. L. Constitution, and Section 1 of Law 99 of the 1905 revised

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PARAGRAPHIC NEWS

BY MISS BEATRIZ L. CHASE.

President Roosevelt has issued the Labor Day Proclamation granting holiday to all per diem employees and laborers the first Monday in September.

Thomas A. Edison has plead suit against Thomas Moore, of this city, for alleged infringement on his rights.

Major Sylvester reported that the total amount of money taken by James E. Kemp, the property clerk, was \$3,475.13. The comet which appeared daily on the eastern horizon has been named the "Daniels," in honor of its discoverer, Professor Daniels, of Princeton University.

Mrs. Louise Taft was reported last Monday as being critically ill at Worcester, Mass.

Four women were hurt in a panic while leaving a blazing trolley car last Sunday afternoon at Atlantic City, N.J. Astronomers say that the stars which are brightest are not nearest to the earth.

John H. Mitchell, skipper of the water tricycle "Genevieve," sailed from the coast of Coney Island last Sunday a.m.

The National Baptist Convention, having a membership of 2,500,000 Baptists in the United States, will convene in this city September 11th.

Last week fully two thousand persons were addressed at the University of Chicago by Abbe Felix Klein, who is instructor in literature in the Catholic Institute, Paris, on "The Common Good of Christendom."

The National Medical Association will hold their next session in Baltimore August 27, 28 and 29.

Mr. Walter Shivers, of Smithfield, Va., attended the fifty-first annual session of the Grand United Order of Galilean Fishermen, which was held in this city.

The United States Grand Jury was very much engaged last Monday in hearing the testimony concerning the hand-book work in the District of Columbia. Louis C. Bahan, an insane patient, who escaped from the State Hospital at Middleton, N. Y., on July 31, and sent souvenir postal cards to the different officials of the hospital, has been captured.

A large crowd visited the new bathing beach at the site of the government's old fish ponds last Sunday.

About twenty residents of the Chinese colony along Pennsylvania avenue near the Capitol went to the Congressional Cemetery last Monday afternoon and conducted the semi-annual custom of "feeding the dead."

Messrs. James Thomas, W. E. Atkins and Robert Curry, of Hampton, Va., attended the fifty-first annual session of the Grand United Order of Galilean Fishermen.

A fair which was called the Tri-State Negro Industrial Exposition, was held by the colored people of Missouri, Kansas, and Nebraska, last week in St. Joseph, Mo.

The fortieth session of the R. W. G. Council of the I. O. of St. Luke will be held in the St. Luke Hall, Richmond, Va., August 20, 21 and 22.

G. W. Griffin, who was a prominent physician in Savannah, Ga., died last week. His funeral took place last Sunday.

The twenty-seventh session of Tuskegee Institute begins September 10th. Mrs. Rosa Graham, who jumped from the roof of her home in Philadelphia, to escape arrest, died last Monday in the German Hospital.

Frederick Nye, assistant editor of the New York World, was struck by a car in Lexington avenue, New York, last Monday evening, and fatally injured.

More than three hundred delegates attended the State Grand Lodge of Negro Odd Fellows at Pine Bluff, Ark.

Henry Lacy, a dark-skinned citizen of Kansas City, has built a motor car which is run by a wood-burning engine.

Prof. Frederick Starr, anthropologist of the University of Chicago, says that he believes Japan could whip the United States in war.

The two companies of the State Guard that have been at Tell City, Ind., since last Saturday, left Monday. It is stated that all has been quiet among the strikers.

BALTIMORE AND OHIO EXCURSION.

Sunday August 18, \$1.00 Harpers Ferry and Martinsburg and return. \$1.35 Berkeley Springs and return. \$2.00 Cumberland and return. Special train leaves Washington at 8:15 a.m.

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